

National Republican

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The National Republican is published every morning, (Sundays excepted) at the southern corner of Thirteenth street and Pennsylvania Avenue, and is furnished to subscribers (by carriers) at five cents per month.

Subscription, \$4.00 per year; \$1.00 for six months, and \$0.50 for three months. Terms payable in advance.

RATES OF ADVERTISING

Twenty-five cents per line. Advertising column the head of "For Sale or Rent," "Wanted," "Wanted and Found," and "Personal," twenty and a half cents each.

THE WEEKLY REPUBLICAN is published every Saturday morning, and is furnished to subscribers at the following rates: One copy, 25¢; two copies one year, \$1.00; ten copies, \$1.00; single copies in packages, 25¢ each.

All communications, whether on business or for personal purposes, should be addressed to the proprietor, NATIONAL REPUBLICAN, Washington, D. C.

THE REPUBLICAN HAS A LARGER CIRCULATION THAN ANY OTHER NEWSPAPER IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

THURSDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 11, 1873.

DEMOCRATIC EXPECTATIONS.

Sanguine Democratic politicians and journals are predicting the early return of the party to power. Pointing to the elections of the last fall, particularly in Ohio, and to the dissatisfaction that in one way or another, from time to time, finds expression, they argue that the next year must certainly bring them a like success; that the causes which operated then to give them a temporary advantage will be equally powerful in the immediate future. If there be any other ground for the sweet delusion in which they are indulging at the present time we do not know them.

Reasoning from analogy, the Democratic politicians are not so far astray. During the last two years the Republican majority in Congress has been committing blunder after blunder—in ignoring some of the most evident demands of the country; in paying more attention to the interests of corporations and individuals than to the business to which the people expected them to attend. There is no need to enumerate the list of measures that were objectionable, but which were nevertheless passed, the long roll of vital questions which were thrown aside without the least consideration. If, during the session of Congress which has just begun, these errors shall be committed over again, there is not the least doubt that the intelligent States which so lately set their seal of disapprobation upon the party will not be slow to repeat the lesson they have taught. More protestations of reform, mere resolutions to do only what ought to be done, will be of little avail. The country demands honest, faithful work at the hands of the majority in Congress. Never did a party have a more magnificent opportunity than the Republi- can party had to-day. Question of the gravest and most vital importance press for action. There are the finances. The disasters of the last four or five months show the imperative necessity of immediate action toward a resumption of specie payment as soon as possible. Trade and industry are almost paralyzed. The mechanic and the merchant, the day laborer and the millionaire, all look to Congress to point the way through the difficulties which beset us. Then there is the transportation question, which has seized the West like one of its own prairie fires, sweeping away the traditions and the associations of years. Congress, a year ago, in the message of the President, was asked to give it some attention; but a deaf ear was turned to the resolution introduced a little earlier in the day declaring full rights to the Cuban people. It was sought to couple the two measures, although at variance, the one a power to compel peace, the other a direct invitation to war. But the hum of conversation soon showed the attempted specifications, and the resolution was consigned to the Committee on Foreign Affairs. The debate on the enlistment bill continued until the expiration of the morning hour, when an amendment limiting the term of service to one year, from January 1, 1874, was adopted and the bill passed.

The Committee on Appropriations will meet to-morrow morning to provide the money necessary for the payment of the salaries of the naval and army departments, and the pay of the post office, post roads, and mail routes. The proposition, when the various propositions intended to accomplish this end were formally discussed, and the entire matter ultimately committed to Messrs. Packer, Page, and Randall for examination.

THE INCREASED PAY QUESTION.

To the Editor of "The Republican":—I have a few words to say on the subject of the increased pay question (see page 1, col. 1) I have averaged for several years 1 cent a day for four thousand miles, and heard everywhere, and from all parties, utter condemnation of the "salary grab." I never heard any other public measure more generally discussed, or so much talked about, as this.

It is now generally agreed by the unbiassed, that the amount of pay given to the members of Congress is not equal to the cost of living in Washington. The members' average pay is \$1,200 per annum, while the average pay of the members of Congress is \$1,000 per annum.

Now, what are believed to be the reasons of this? First, the members' average pay is \$1,200 per annum, while the average pay of the members of Congress is \$1,000 per annum.

Secondly, it is ascertained that the average earnings of the members of Congress for the services rendered in Washington for an average of five months, services only per annum, they get \$7,500, and the average pay of the governors of the States, whose responsibilities are much greater than those of the members of Congress, is \$1,000 per annum.

In passing the act, it was urged that the cost of living in Washington was the same as in New York.

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